



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: October 22, 2020

Time: 1:00 pm

Remote via Zoom

Present: Alan Broad, John Brennan, Pat Brown, Andy Bruziewicz, Terry Burrell, Joe Faas, Chair; Larry Gordon, Vice Chair; Aaron Hall, Frank Kennes, Brad Loosley, Betty Ann MacKinnon, Kevin Marriott, Mark McGill, Netty McEwen, Dan McMillan, Steve Miller, Frank Nemcek, Lorie Scott, Mike Stark, Jerry Westgate

Staff Present: Donna Blue, Manager of Communications; Erin Carroll, Director of Biology; Chris Durand, Manager of GIS and IT; Ashley Fletcher, Administrative Assistant/ Board Coordinator; Brian McDougall, General Manager; Tim Payne, Manager of Forestry; Tracy Prince, Director of Finance; Girish Sankar, Director of Water Resources;

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was requested that each Director declare a conflict of interest at the appropriate time, on any item within this agenda in that a Director may have pecuniary interest.

BD-20-86

McEwen – MacKinnon

“That the Board of Directors accepts the agenda for the meeting as presented.”

CARRIED

- The More Homes, More Choice included an update to the mandates of Conservation Authorities
- MECP conducted consultation sessions with Authorities and stakeholders early this year
- Lambton County Council requested the Authorities to attend a consultation session member municipalities in April – unfortunately COVID-19 forced the cancellation of this meeting
- A public survey broadening the breadth of comments was completed in the Spring
- Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Yurek addressed Conservation Ontario Council on September 28th
- Chair, Joe Faas; Vice Chair, Larry Gordon and General Manager, Brian McDougall attended the Council meeting virtually
- Minister Yurek confirmed that he and his staff continue to process the input received from the consultation session in February and the public survey which followed

- This information may be released as early as this fall and will be used as background for proposed changes to legislation and regulations which the Minister hopes to be brought forward during this sitting of Parliament before year end
- With this information coming in the near future, it is premature to have this meeting prior to the announcement of these new updates

Director's Comments:

Directors discussed the potential legislative and regulatory changes that may come to light by year end and request that SCRCA staff provide a report at such time outlining the changes and their direct implications to the 2021 budget. General Manager, Brian McDougall expressed that the Authority is fortunate to have operating reserves, which may be used if necessary due to such changes, once the budget has passed. A report will be provided to the Board of Directors when information becomes available.

BD-20-87

Burrell – Miller

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the General Manager’s report dated October 15, 2020 and further direct staff to provide correspondence to Lambton County advising that additional directives from the Province forthcoming this fall are necessary for the proposed community information session and that the scheduling be delayed until the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks outline the coming legislative and regulatory changes.”

CARRIED

The 2021 draft budget booklet and the following supporting documents were reviewed:

- Department Summary of the 2021 Total Draft Budget
- Detailed Department Budgets for Departments that are covered by General Levy
- Reserve Analysis
- Analysis of the 2020 CVA 2017 CO Comparative Survey Data.
- % Breakdown of costs in General Levy Departments

Strategic Goal:

To move towards financial sustainability. Over the past two years we have been putting pillars in place to move away from the reliance on capital reserves to run operations. These initiatives have included review of printing, document management software to manage paper flows in planning and retention of documents, move towards cost recovery in planning fees, improving efficiencies in accounting processes where possible, the move to Board packages online without investment in additional software expense, review of cell phone and phone costs and move to vendor of record pricing, installation of LED lighting on the first floor of the office building and realignment of administrative services. Salary gapping as not ideal but due to the COVID-19 restrictions have helped reduce cost but at a cost of customer service standards.

Director's Comments:

It is requested that the Director of Finance, Tracy Prince provide to each member municipality a total of their individual percent increase including both general and special levies.

It was noted by Director Frank Kennes that the focus on the percentage itself does not give an accurate impression of the proposed budget increase. With a comparatively smaller budget than surrounding Conservation Authorities (CAs), a higher percentage may still result in a lower dollar amount than CAs seeking a lower percentage increase.

It is requested by Director Mike Stark that future budget documents include the previous year's total expenditure compared to the following year's proposed budget.

Bd-20-88**Burrell – MacKinnon**

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the 2021 preliminary draft budget of \$9,640,120 with a proposed municipal general levy of \$1,0129,926 and further that this preliminary budget will be circulated to member municipalities for information and input based on our budget review process.”

CARRIED

The tendering of the McKeough agriculture lands closed on September 25, 2020. During the tender process, concerns were brought forward by a current tenant. It was felt that current tenants should have the right to match the highest bid, as they have had inputs into the agriculture land for the last five years. Concerns were also voiced about the Board of Directors changing the right to match during the tender process.

The tender results are as follows for the 2021-2025 Agriculture Lease. The person in the number one spot is the successfully tenant for the lease agreement period. Only the top 3 bids are shown. The right to match the highest bid was rescinded by the Board of Directors at the September 17 th , 2020 meeting. This information was communicated to current tenants by all means possible prior to the tender deadline.			
St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Lands Tender Results 2020			
Property	Top 3 Bids	Bid Price per acre	Name
McKeough Channel Hay (Bottom Land)	1	\$42.00	Peter Van Lierop
	2	\$0.00	
	3	\$0.00	
McKeough Channel Hay (Top Land)	1	\$82.00	Peter Van Lierop
	2	\$25.00	Leo Johnson
	3	\$0.00	
Property 38	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$216.50	Fraser Beatty

	3	\$172.00	Joseph Fournie
Property 39	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$216.50	Fraser Beatty
	3	\$171.00	Joe Riedl
Property 40	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$216.50	Fraser Beatty
	3	\$181.00	Joe Riedl
Property 56	1	\$135.00	Jason/ Jeremy Nottley
	2	\$127.50	Fraser Beatty
	3	\$0.00	
Property 79 West, 80 West	1	\$248.00	Ben Arnold
	2	\$181.50	Fraser Beatty
	3	\$173.00	Jasper Jansen
Property 79 East, 80 East, 82 South	1	\$248.00	Ben Arnold
	2	\$181.50	Fraser Beatty
	3	\$162.00	Jasper Jansen
Property 82 North, 83 West	1	\$248.00	Ben Arnold
	2	\$176.50	Fraser Beatty
	3	\$161.00	Joe Riedl
Property 84	1	\$170.00	Jason/Jeremy Nottley
	2	\$165.00	Ryan Scott
	3	\$160.00	Rob Annett
Property 91	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$190.00	Ken Cook
	3	\$168.00	Jasper Jansen
Property 92 and 87	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$222.00	Paul Vandersteen
	3	\$206.00	Brad/ George Langstaff
Property 95	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$234.00	Paul Vandersteen
	3	\$180.00	Rob Annett
Property 97	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$180.00	Rob Annett
	3	\$179.00	Paul Vandersteen
Property 97 East and 98	1	\$125.00	Dave Pettit
	2	\$0.00	
	3	\$0.00	
Property 101	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$226.00	Paul Vandersteen
	3	\$191.00	Brad/ George Langstaff
Property 103 Agriculture Land	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$225.00	Paul Vandersteen
	3	\$185.00	Mark McGuire
Property 103 and 105 Hay	1	\$88.00	Jasper Jansen
	2	\$82.00	Peter Van Lierop

	3	\$0.00	
Property 111	1	\$200.00	Dave Pettit
	2	\$151.00	Jasper Jansen
	3	\$125.00	Jack Malfroot
Property 138 and 140	1	\$236.50	Ben Arnold
	2	\$211.00	Paul Vandersteen
	3	\$160.00	Jeremy/ Jason Nottley

Strategic Objectives(s):

Goal 2 – Protect, manage, and restore our natural systems including woodlands, wetlands, waterways, and lakes

Financial Impact:

The majority of the leased land tendered higher than the previous period.

Director's Comments:

It was noted that the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation made the request to remove the first right of refusal clause out of all lease agreements for Foundation-owned agricultural lands.

Director Pat Brown requested that future budgets reflect the total revenues received from agricultural leases.

BD-20-89

Miller – Scott

“That the Board of Directors acknowledges the report dated October 9, 2020 on the 2021-2025 McKeough Agriculture Lease Results.”

CARRIED

Under New Business

Director and Vice-Chair, Larry Gordon enquired regarding the end of the camping season and whether any special arrangements are needed to accommodate ‘snowbirds’ who are unable to travel South due to COVID-19 restrictions. General Manager, Brian McDougall confirmed that all camping activities will cease as of Sunday, October 25, 2020 and that the season, despite early spring setbacks due to COVID-19, was fairly successful. To date there have been no conflicts reported at SCRCA campgrounds regarding snowbirds and it is assumed that alternate accommodations have been planned for. Director Mike Stark enquired whether staff provided input to the Lambton County Management Group for their emergency plan, which includes contingencies for snowbirds. This will be confirmed by Director of Lands, Greg Wilcox at a later time.

Director Lorie Scott complimented staff on the informative meeting package received in advance of the meeting.

BD-20-90

Brown – McMillan

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED



Joe Faas
Chair



Brian McDougall
General Manager